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April 7, 2011

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM:  Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON CONSOLIDATION OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY
REHABILITATION CENTERS**

This is to provide an update on the progress of the consolidation of the Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Centers (AVRC). On October 5, 2010, your Board approved a request by the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and Department of Public Health (DPH) to consolidate the AVRC residential programs presently located at Acton and Warm Springs into a single facility. The plan entailed closure of the Warm Springs facility and relocation of its program and staffing to the Acton facility. The consolidation achieves the following benefits: 1) maximizes use of limited resources for substance use disorder treatment services; 2) brings the AVRC facility into compliance with State and County licensing and regulatory requirements; and 3) ensures a high quality of AVRC services by renovating the physical infrastructure at Acton, upgrading clinical services, and providing sufficient staffing levels. The consolidation is expected to be completed by June 30, 2011.

Infrastructure Improvements

DPH is working with the Internal Services Department (ISD) to renovate the Acton facility and establish separate gender-specific areas for men and women residents and the support staff. Temporary housing and office units are to be completed by June 15, 2011 and the full transition of the men's program at Warm Springs to Acton will be completed by June 30, 2011. Meanwhile, the CEO, DPH, and the Department of Public Works (DPW) are in the process of designing the new campus that will be completed by 2014.

Programs and Services

AVRC is improving its clinical services by adopting comprehensive evidence-based treatment practices recommended by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's National Registry of Evidence Based Practices and consistent with the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs' Standards of Care guidelines. Extensive in-service training for staff is underway with the assistance of the Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center at the University of California, Los Angeles.

AVRC has also participated in the substance use disorder treatment process improvement project using the federally-sponsored NIATx process improvement model. Findings from the assessment conducted by AVRC were used to identify and implement specific process improvement projects that successfully reduced admission wait times and increased resident retention in treatment.

Personnel

As mentioned previously, the entire Warm Springs staff is in the process of transitioning to the Acton campus. There is no reduction in staff positions planned for the consolidation. All currently budgeted positions are needed to ensure adequate provision of administrative, clinical, maintenance, and support operations and services.

Next Steps

The AVRC consolidation process will continue as planned involving the following entities: the CEO, DPH, ISD, DPW, and other collaborative partners as reported above. We will provide your Board an update in June, 2011. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

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PH: 1012:002/1102:002

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors